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• Articles concerning the status of the program as of Summer 1965, were organized into a small "newspaper." Included were the following topics: 1) High school dropouts employed as Teacher Aids in kindergartens were returning to school. 2) The Neighborhood Service Center program was explained. 3) MFY volunteer work crews helped erect concrete bleachers for a baseball park. 4) Promotions and other changes in administrative positions were announced. 5) Executive Director Bertram Beck's appearance before a Senate Subcommittee on behalf of extension of the Juvenile Delinquency and Youth Offenders Act of 1961 was summarized. 6) Adventure Corps campaigned for better sanitation. 7) The pre-school compensatory education program was described. 8) MFY's budget for the school year 1964 -65 was explained with accompanying diagrams. 9) Early Childhood Experiments were explained.

A good comprehensive picture of current status of Mobilization for Youth was provided.

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MOBILIZATION FOR YOUTH, INC.

MFY NEWS BULLETIN

VOL. 3 NO. 2 SUMMER 1965

ED001550

Dropouts Return to Classrooms In Novel Teacher Aid Program

The number 13 may be both lucky and decisive for two groups of Lower East Side teenagers.

Encouraging first reports have led to the employment of seven additional school dropouts as teacher-helpers in area kindergartens. They join six pioneers who launched this experimental program in mid-March.

Mrs. Rebecca Winton, Director of Early Childhood Education for the Board of Education, and Bertram M. Beck, Executive Director of Mobilization for Youth, announced the program April 26—starting date for the second group of school aides.

Speaking for the school system's Bureau of Early Childhood Education, Mrs. Winton said:

"This program has been received most favorably by the kindergarten teachers who as a result have more time to spend with their children. It is also aiding the young adults who are being shown that the school system is interested in them. We will be studying this program with the hope that the number of kindergarten classes so serviced may be increased."

The "semi-graduates," as they prefer to be called, have undergone an orientation program that enables them to help hard-pressed teachers in the mornings with small groups in such activities as language development, science, music, art and physical fitness.

In the afternoons, the teenagers are involved with their own remedial work, with counseling and with preparation for the next day's activities.

Like all 16 to 22-year-olds in MFY's Work Program, they are being paid $1 an hour for a 30-hour week. They are assigned to six schools under the supervision of Acting Assistant Superintendent Lewis Stoller of Districts 1, 2, 3, 4 and Assistant Superintendent Edward Scalea of Districts 5, 7, 9.

From the MFY viewpoint, this

Continued on page 2

EAST RIVER PARK DEDICATION of baseball bleachers marked completion of novel cooperative project involving community leadership, the city, and MFY work crews. Participants included City Council President Paul Screvane, Parks Commissioner Newbold Morris (left) MFY Chairman Winslow Carlton, and Mrs. Petra Santiago (right). See dedication story on page 2.

NSC Expansion Plan Places Accent on Service to the Poor

No resting on laurels for MFY's Services to Individuals and Families Division, whose Neighborhood Service Centers have attracted nationwide attention.

In the fall, according to SIF Chief Margaret Shea, one of MFY's three centers will be greatly expanded—both in services and space.

This move is part of a constant search for new techniques to provide better service to the residents of a low-income neighborhood.

Scheduled for expansion is NSC #1, at Ridge and Stanton Streets —the first "helping station," opened in November 1962 as MFY's action programs accelerated.

The center will be enlarged through the annexation of a barbershop next door. Two other stores around the corner will be taken over as part of a "compound." Under several roofs, the center will provide comprehensive services for adults and youngsters: legal, child care, homemaking, employment (adult), housing, health.

What are the best techniques for providing concrete services, with a minimum of "red tape"? How does one increase city and private institutional involvement in providing services? What is the relationship of groups to problem-solving? These are some of the questions that may be answered by the experiences of the expanded center.

Also new to the SIF program is the hiring of a welfare consultant. The consultant, though based in SIF, will be available to all divisions of MFY and to its contract agencies. Experienced in the administrative practices of the Department of Welfare, the consultant is expected to make a significant contribution to staff training.

NOTES on the NEWS

• Charles Grosser, Deputy Executive Director (Program), discussed "The Citizen and Effective Action" at the 6th annual conference of the Lexington Democratic Club. Others on the May 1st panel: Manhattan Borough President Constance Motley, State Senator Jerome Wilson and Barbara Reach, Community Service Society . . .

• Action of another kind for seven trainees in MFY's Work Program who extinguished a potentially serious tenement fire April 21. Responsible for fast-thinking and fancy footwork were Tony Vega and Isaac McArthur (on duty at the MFY-Shell Service Station), and Hippolito Galarza, Miguel Garcia, Jaime Rivera and Ramon Serrano (working nearby for contractor Michael Schwartz). The youngsters (1) turned in an alarm, (2) manned fire extinguishers, and (3) tossed a burning mattress to Houston Street below . . .

• Pretty hot themselves, 250 MFY homework helpers told of their tutoring experiences, reacted to special materials prepared by the National Education Association and heard a talk by Gerald Brooks of the city school system's Teacher Recruitment Unit at a special meeting April 12. The event was part of the national observance of Teaching Careers Month . . .

• Elsewhere on the educational front, the Board of Education's mobile exhibit on instructional materials for quality integrated schools was viewed by 400 persons at the MFY-District Curriculum Center, April 5 to 12 . . .

• Also on the move, Lois Kalb, Materials Development Specialist, presented a paper on the relationships of alphabets and other scripts to language at the International Reading Association in Detroit (May 5) . . .

• Closer to home, Manny Diaz, Community Affairs chief, mixed the ingredients for "an effective youth program," outlining MFY's varied experiences at a membership meeting of the Parkway-Stuyvesant Community and Housing Council (Brooklyn) March 17.

'Best Bleachers' Are Opened

A cooperative effort involving local residents, city government and MFY has led to the opening of new concrete baseball bleachers at East River Park opposite East Fourth Street.

Each group contributed to the project which was dedicated April 28. Local residents, lead by Mrs. Petra Santiago, generated the inspirational force and secured the petitions necessary to start the project rolling. The Parks Department agreed to provide the materials and MFY volunteered a work crew to perform the labor.

At the dedication ceremonies, project participants received high praise from City Council President Paul R. Screvane and from Parks Commissioner Newbold Morris, who termed these bleachers "the best in a city park." Also offering congratulations were MFY's Chairman Winslow Carlton, Executive Director Bertram M. Beck, and Director of Community Affairs Manuel Diaz.

The ceremonies were climaxed by the presentation of plaques to the MFY work crew and to Mrs. Santiago representing the Independent Juvenile Baseball League which uses the diamond with the new bleachers.

Construction of the bleachers served a double purpose: providing useful employment and training to unemployed school dropouts, and filling the community's need for a recreational facility.

Rothbaum Moves Up, Other Changes Made

In a continuing effort to strengthen the administrative and programmatic structure of MFY, Executive Director Bertram M. Beck recently announced several major personnel changes.

"The Mobilization for Youth program must stand on a platform of sound administration. We intend to provide that platform," said Mr. Beck.

On May 3, Kalman Rothbaum, controller of MFY since its inception, became Assistant Executive Director for Administration. Mr. Rothbaum has had more than 30 years experience in business administration, accounting and finance in both private and governmental service.

Miss Ruth R. Becker, the new MFY controller, recently resigned as director of finance, management and personnel at the National Association of Social Workers. A graduate of CCNY, she has taken graduate courses at NYU and Columbia.

Max Fiks, previously a personnel analyst in the U.S. Post Office Department, has been appointed Personnel Director of MFY. Mr. Fiks, who holds bachelor's and master's degrees in public administration from New York University, has worked for the Veterans Administration and the New York City Department of Personnel.

Previously announced was the promotion of Sidney Furie, student supervisor in the Training and Personnel Department, to Coordinator of Training. He is an instructor at New York University and formerly was supervisor of the casework staff at the Community Service Society.

Messrs. Furie and Fix will share the expanded duties of Francis "Pat" Purcell, former chief of T&P. Mr. Purcell resigned to accept an appointment as professor of social work at Rutgers University.

Among other recent changes: Sidney Pinsky and Philip Kramer, supervisors in Community Development and Group Work, were promoted to assistant chiefs in their division. Mr. Pinsky formerly was a supervisor in Hillside Hospital, Queens. Mr. Kramer, with MFY since 1960, helped develop the project's original proposal.

Service, Experimentation? Beck Tells Senate Nation Needs Both

Appearing before a Senate Subcommittee in Washington, D.C. April 8, Bertram M. Beck made a strong plea for extension of the Juvenile Delinquency and Youth Offenses Act of 1961.

The new Economic Opportunity Act does not diminish the need for experimental delinquency programs, Mr. Beck told members of the Subcommittee on Employment and Manpower of the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare.

"The poverty program is designed to provide service," said Mr. Beck. "The Mobilization program, and other demonstrations of a somewhat similar nature, are basically crucibles for testing new knowledge."

(The first grant awarded following passage of the delinquency act went to Mobilization for Youth. Announcement of the pioneer demonstration award was made by President Kennedy and Mayor Wagner on the steps of the White House, May 31, 1962.)

Appearing with Mr. Beck to support the extension of S.1566 were Joseph S. Slavet, Executive Director of Action for Boston Community Development, and Mitchell Sviridoff, Executive Director of Community Progress, Inc., New Haven, Conn.

Senator Jacob Javits (R-N.Y.) made a statement for the record, before Mr. Beck's testimony, at the hearing presided over by committee chairman Joseph S. Clark (D-Pa.):

"I commend the testimony of Mobilization's new Executive Director, Mr. Beck, to the committee as being as illustrative as any we will have as to the validity of a concept that a further extension of this act and appropriations under it can produce tremendous dividends in terms of demonstrations in how to deal with these grave problems.

"I know of no area more suitable than the Lower East Side of New York for testing the practicality of these various means of dealing with the problem. . . ."

Mr. Beck gave the Committee a brief MFY progress report, covering July 1, 1962 through April 1, 1965. He cited many hopeful signs and some genuine social breakthroughs in such areas as education, youth employment and training, self-help community development, legal aid, and services to individuals, families and teenage groups.

"Final judgments have not been made," he reported. "But our experience, the project's impact in its neighborhood, the receptivity of young and old to self-help—these and other developments lead me to recommend continuation of the mass of programs like MFY for experimental purposes for another few years . . . assuming some new forms and directions," he concluded.

CORPS SCORES CLEAN SWEEP

It was a clean sweep for MFY's Adventure Corps as the city's six major newspapers turned out to cover the grand opening of the Cleanup Campaign sponsored jointly with the Sanitation Dept.

To launch the campaign, about 200 boys and girls on school holiday marched two miles uptown from Henry Street on the morning of April 19. A nine-piece drum and bugle corps and a sanitation truck accompanied the uniformed marchers.

At the climax of the parade, corps members distributed leaflets printed in Spanish and English offering instructions on the proper handling of garbage and litter. Members of the Sanitation Department then proceeded to assist residents of Fifth Street between Avenues C and D in a thorough block cleanup.

During the next two days, Sanitation crews also worked with residents of Fourth and Sixth Streets between Avenues C and D.

Thanks to the cooperation promised by the Sanitation Department and neighborhood tenant groups, the cleanliness of the MFY target area will be greatly improved.

Community and Staff Report Impact of MFY To Congress Committee

Has juvenile delinquency decreased sharply or leveled off on the Lower East Side?

Is it reasonable or risky to attempt to give a statistical picture of the complex processes of community change at mid-point in a community action program?

A three-hour congressional subcommittee hearing at Mobilization for Youth did not resolve these questions. But the May 10 exploration of MFY's programs and impact did establish that:

1. The project's innovative efforts — especially in experimental education, job training and community development — have wide implications for aid-to-education and poverty programs.

2. The project, as an indication of its continuing vigor, has launched a series of new programs *(see, for example, teacher-helper story on Page 1)*, and is planning others.

3. MFY's reintegration program (for youthful offenders) has reduced the rate of recidivism among the relatively small population involved by at least 40 per cent.

Following the hearing, Rep. Hugh L. Carey (D-Bklyn.) said for publication, "On the basis of what we have seen, we have reached the preliminary conclusion that MFY should be continued." Rep. John Brademas (D-Ind.), another member of the general subcommittee of the House Committee on Education and Labor, told those assembled:

"This was a most interesting and informative session. It was probably one of the best hearings held on the subject of the extension of the Juvenile Delinquency and Youth Offenses Control Act."

In addition to MFY's staff, community participants included: Mrs. Earline Carr, a member of the Adventure Corps mother's group; Mrs. Carmen Rosado, Movimiento Hispano Unidos, Mrs. Petra Santiago, founder of the Independent Juvenile Baseball League, and Eugene Blackette and Joseph Heckstall of the Young Adult Action Group.

At the time of the MFY visit, the subcommittee, chaired by Rep. Carl

Continued on page 4

Pre-school program bridges gap with

New Techniques for Tots

They daub paint on home-made toys, feed Goldie the goldfish, cook real food, fashion clay mudballs—and yet it's not all child's play.

The 60 four-year-olds in MFY's four pre-kindergarten classes are simultaneously and constantly learning, learning, learning. Learning about living animals, health habits, responsibility, discipline and many other things they should—but don't—know.

"Some children don't know head, hand, face as part of self," reveals Mrs. Adele Davidson, Coordinator of MFY's Early Childhood Program which includes the pre-kindergarten classes. *(See also page 8.)*

Basically, the pre-kindergarten classes offer compensatory early childhood experiences to disadvantaged youngsters—experiences they will need to bolster their chances of doing well in school.

Many have language difficulties, can't identify—in English—everyday objects. Others, native born, can't name simple objects around them because their parents may not have had the time to spend teaching them about objects surrounding them. Some of the youngsters have emotional problems.

Whatever the reasons, the job of the teachers is to fill in the gaps for their pupils. It takes skill and training to accomplish this end. The classes are taught at P.S. 4 and P.S. 177 in Manhattan by Mrs. Happie Byers and Mrs. Elvira Goldfield, with the cooperation of the Board of Education. Seymour Weinstein is principal of P.S. 4 and Sol Press is principal of P.S. 177. As Mrs. Davidson said to a recent visitor, "Everything the teacher does has a purpose." Even the most simple-appearing game has some sort of learning objective.

MFY's pioneering pre-kindergarten classes are now in their second year. The Board of Education has instituted 65 pre-kindergarten classes in 24 schools and plans to add 174 more in September. And other cities have similar plans.

LEARNING IS FUN for members of Happie Byers's class at P. S. 4. Left, they learn parts of the body ("this is my head"). Right, John Kwok is fascinated by class pet, a turtle, while learning about animals and movement.

GROUP EXPERIENCE is shared, left, by Lili Grudzien, Sondra Labriola, Valerie Ashford and Charles Saliba, while decorating paper cones. Juanita Vasquez, above, shapes clay.

PEERING INTO THE GOLDFISH BOWL, above, is a "learning about living things" experience for members of class. They also hear how a fish can live in water, learn such words as "fins" and "gill." Right, while playing, they learn discipline—"one at a time."

Dropouts Return As Teacher Aides

—continued from page 1

program has several objectives. "In the long run we may be able to encourage these youngsters to return to school," said Mr. Beck. (Five already have expressed this desire.) "Meanwhile, their work habits, skills and intellectual development will be broadened. In the process, their self-esteem will be buttressed, and they will be on their way to becoming better citizens."

The program's participants, five boys and eight girls, are: Patricia Arce, Lucy Arroyo, Miguel Candelario, Sarah Feliceo, Edward Ferrell, Gladys Hernandez, Antoinette Newkirk, Manuel Ortiz, Martha Pinero, Wilfredo Soltren, Rafaela Viera, Horace Ward and Lydia Wilkins.

A new proposal to the Office of Manpower, Automation and Training requests $66,900. If it is approved, the Teacher-Helper Program could be expanded from the current enrollment of 15 to 75 youngsters in the area served by Mobilization for Youth.

This experimental activity was designed by Miss Charlotte Oshwetz of MFY's Work Program.

Courtesy: The New York Times

CONGRESSIONAL VISITORS, at MFY subcommittee hearing, are Reps. Hugh L. Carey (D-Bklyn.) and John Brademas (D-Ind.) shown in Work Evaluation Unit with trainee Miguel Borges. Legislators were getting facts before recommending extension of Juvenile Delinquency, Youth Offenses Control Act of 1961.

PHOTO CREDITS

1—Charles Tobach; 4-5—(top, l.) Melissa Shook, (r.) Happie Byers; (bottom, l. to r.) Byers, Shook, Byers; 6—The New York Times; 8—Baron Associates.

Community Development Tests New Approaches

Finding new approaches to the solution of long-standing problems: that's the continuing challenge to MFY's Community Development staff.

Currently, the division is experimenting with a two-pronged approach to organizing welfare clients into mutual help groups.

One technique, the more traditional, provides staff and other resources to neighborhood groups. This technique united welfare recipients to form Movimiento Hispanos Unidos one year ago.

The other approach uses a building as the organizing instrument. Community Development specialists in housing and welfare problems have been working with relief recipients in specific buildings. Welfare clients are encouraged to band together to act on complaints affecting them all: no heat, no hot water, poor building maintenance, difficulty in locating the landlord, and the like.

The approach seems an effective one. As Marylyn Bibb, Chief of Community Development, points out, "These groups are learning how to handle some of their problems through mutual action rather than trying to cope with them singly."

RADIO-TV LOG

Mobilization for Youth continues as a major newsmaker. In recent months, press coverage has been heavy. In the magazine field, MFY's experimental group abstinence narcotics program was analyzed in a New Yorker (March 27) article covering parts of 52 pages. The following were among the special programs aired over radio and television between March 1 and press time for this issue:

MARCH

MAR. 7 — WABC-TV (Channel 7). "New York, New York Show." Moderator Bill Beutel interviewed Bertram M. Beck, executive director of MFY and Paul R. Screvane, president of the City Council and chairman of the city's Anti-Poverty Operations Board. Subject: Mobilization for Youth.

MAR. 7—WINS RADIO NEWS CONFERENCE. Mr. Beck was interviewed by the news director of WINS and two of the station's reporters.

APRIL

APRIL 11—WOR-TV (9). "New York Report." Moderator Lester Smith of WOR and Woody Klein, reporter-columnist of the *World-Telegram* discussed MFY with Bertram Beck.

APRIL 26 — WNYC-TV (31). "Community Action," half-hour show produced by the Community Council of Greater New York. "What's ahead for MFY?" asked Ted Thackrey, moderator. "A future that looks bright," responded his guest, Bert Beck.

Community and Staff Report Impact of MFY

—continued from page 3

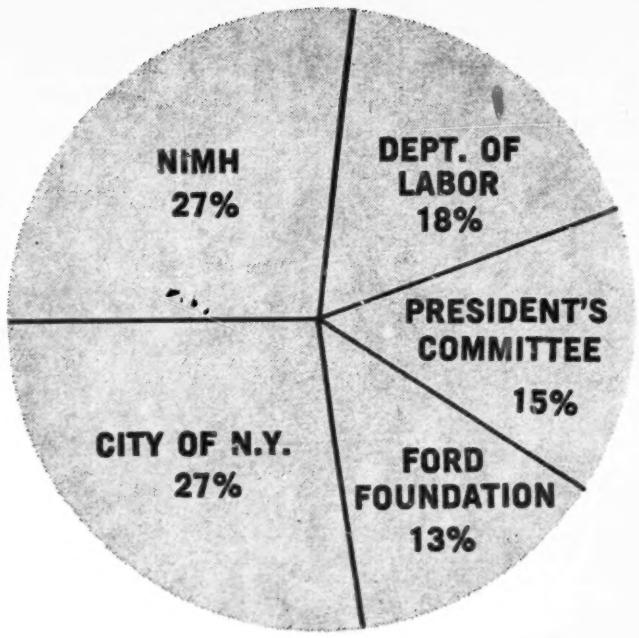
D. Perkins (D-Ky.), was hearing government and nongovernment witnesses on the Administration's requests for $650 million for fiscal 1966 and also for authorization to continue the program through fiscal 1968. During the coming year, the program will continue support of MFY and community action projects in Boston and New Haven—to assure maximum return on information and evaluation of this approach to delinquency prevention.

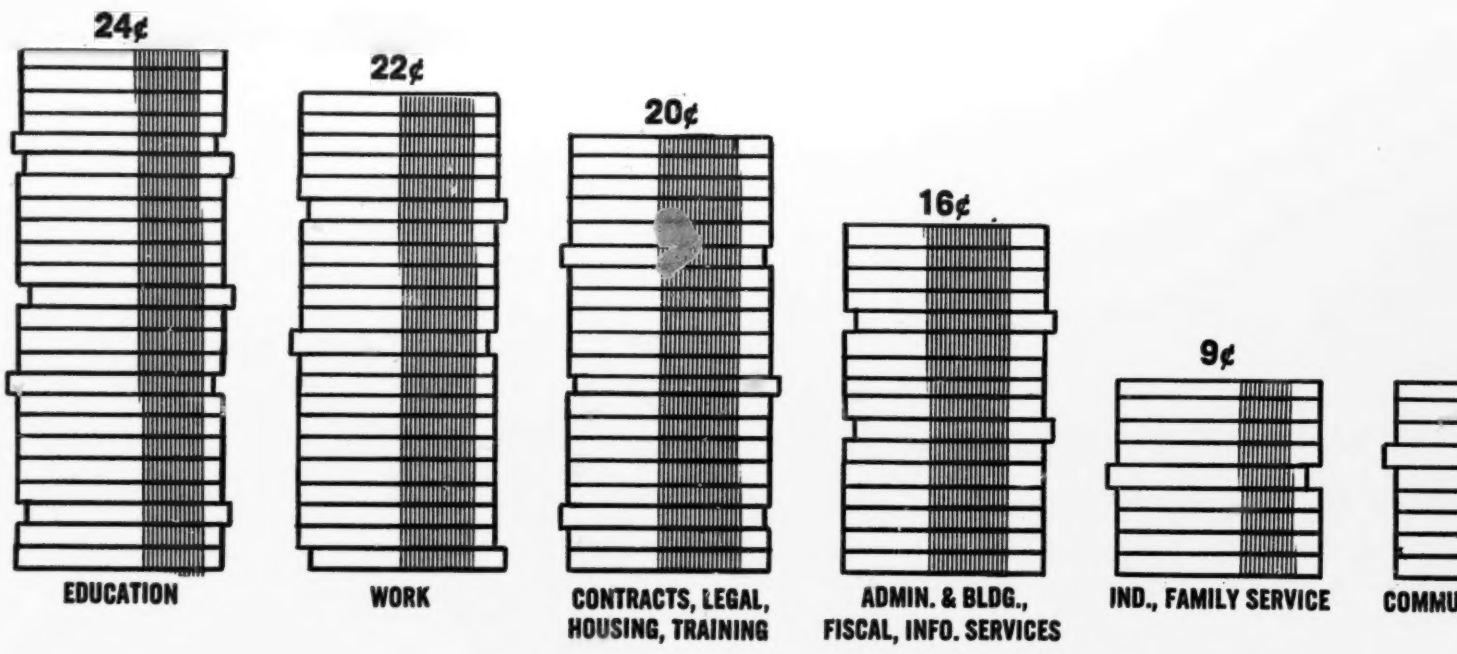
Others of the 14 comprehensive demonstration projects are being transferred to the poverty program as their grants expire during the coming year.

MFY BUDGET '64-'65

The figure at the right shows where Mobilization for Youth gets its money. MFY is a private corporation funded by groups with different interests, including the expansion of social science knowledge, educational experimentation and social change. Principal funding sources in fiscal 1965 (ending June 30) and amounts follow:

National Institute of Mental Health, $1,532,245; President's Committee on Juvenile Delinquency, $867,000; Ford Foundation, $717,000; City of New York, $1,542,820; and U.S. Department of Labor (OMAT), $979,600.





Top budgeted program was the World of Education, with 12 components ranging from guidance and attendance to curriculum planning, from homework help to reading clinics *(see also pages 4 & 8)*. Second to Education at $1,377,066 was the World of Work at $1,305,920.

Contracts to local agencies and institutions, principally for Group Services (mental hygiene, aid to addicts, LENA, etc.) totaled $671,445. Individual and Family Services received $538,753; Community Development and Parent Education, $268,168; group services programs operated directly by MFY were given $268,272.

Allocations for professional training and for the Materials and Program Development Unit came to $268,101. MFY's Housing and Legal Services programs r $87,550 and $82,327, respecti

A total of $820,659 wa marked for non-program it follows: Administrative an eral Expenses (including s and rentals), $499,926, Fisca ices, $131,532, and Infor Services, $92,675. Cleanin maintenance services for M cilities came to $96,526.

Early Childhood Experiments Seek Answers

Some of the nation's most important experiments aren't being conducted in laboratories.

One example is MFY's Early Childhood Program *(see also pages 4 and 5)*, a cooperative venture with the city's school system.

Now in its second year, this program includes two pre-school, 20 kindergarten and 20 first-grade classes. Capturing the essence of this early educational intervention, Dr. Abraham J. Tannenbaum, Coordinator of Education, says:

"This concentration of services may reduce the need for correctional services in the later school years. If so, new insights will emerge as to how the educational dollar ought best be spent to reduce failure and frustration."

The program tries to build a richer set of experiences into the backgrounds of young children in a deprived area. "Its major concern," says Dr. Tannenbaum, "is improved language readiness, taking into account the slum child's lack of familiarity with verbal concepts, and his limited exposure to the world of books."

Basic to the experiments in intensive enrichment—in the hope of heading off later retardation—is a hunch that they should begin as early as possible. (Some children show signs of serious learning difficulty as early as the first grade.) Teachers receive special training and supplementary instructional materials. They are closely supervised and aided in developing language experiences appropriate for young children, many of whom are bilingual or non-English speaking.

The Elementary Reading Clinic is working with a special group of first-graders, identified as "potential severe retardates" in reading. Special programmed instructional material is being used, and the reading clinicians are preparing other materials for later use.

Guidance counselors in the elementary schools are also participating in these early intervention efforts. They meet with the primary graders singly and in groups; also maintain parental liaison.

TROPHY WINNER is Rudolph Garcia, the Adventure Corps' outstanding boy of the year. Bertram M. Beck, Executive Director, made the award. Also participating were Barrington Dunbar (center), Director of this program for 9 to 15-year-olds, and Miss Ruth Cubero.

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